LAPD FILM UNIT

FILM PERMITTING • PUBLIC SAFETY • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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SAFE COMMUNITIES. SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTIONS

HOW A FILM PERMIT MOVES THROUGH THE CITY

FILM PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS

HOW A FILM PERMIT IS REVIEWED, COORDINATED, AND ISSUED

1 PRODUCTION SUBMITS APPLICATION

- Applicant submits permit to FilmLA via online portal
- Required documents uploaded

2 FILMLA INTAKE & COORDINATION

- FilmLA reviews information for completeness
- Coordinates with City departments
- Assigns to permit coordinator

3 CITY DEPARTMENT REVIEWS

- Routed to applicable City departments for review
- Departments evaluate scope, logistics, and potential impacts

DOT · LAFD · PARKS · BSS · FAA*

*When applicable

4 LAPD FILM UNIT REVIEW

- Reviews permit and location to determine:
  - Public Safety & Community Impact
  - Traffic & Pedestrian Impacts
  - Officer Requirements
  - City Liability
  - Special Conditions & Notes
- Requests revisions or approves permit

5 ARE REVISIONS REQUIRED?

★ YES
Revisions Needed

NO
No Revisions Needed

5A RETURN FOR CORRECTIONS

- Returned to FilmLA coordinator to address requested revisions
- Applicant updates and resubmits

6 PERMIT FINALIZED & ISSUED

- FilmLA screens applicable documentation
- Coordinates notifications & community surveys
- Finalizes and distributes permit to applicant

6 PERMIT FINALIZED & ISSUED

- FilmLA screens applicable documentation

7 PRODUCTION DAY & ONGOING OVERSIGHT

- Motion Picture Officers on site for traffic & pedestrian control
- FilmLA Monitor ensures permit compliance
- LAPD Film Unit available for support, spot checks & response

8 COMPLIANCE & CLOSEOUT

- Post-production audits and evaluations
- Address complaints and enforcement (if needed)
- Permit lifecycle closed

KEY ROLES

- **PRODUCTION APPLICANT** — Submits application and required documents
- **FILMLA** — Intake, coordination, notifications, and permit administration
- **CITY DEPARTMENTS** — Review operational, safety, and logistical impacts
- **LAPD FILM UNIT** — Evaluates public safety, community impact, traffic, and liability
- **REVISION PROCESS** — Ensures all concerns are addressed before permit issuance
- **PERMIT ISSUANCE** — Finalizes permit and communicates with stakeholders
- **PRODUCTION DAY** — Active compliance and oversight in the field
- **COMPLIANCE & CLOSEOUT** — Audits, complaints, enforcement, and permit closure

PERMIT LIFECYCLE AT A GLANCE

1 SUBMIT APPLICATION → 2 FILMLA INTAKE & COORDINATION → 3 CITY DEPARTMENT REVIEWS → 4 LAPD FILM UNIT REVIEW → 5 REVISIONS? YES → 5A / NO → 6 → 6 PERMIT ISSUED → 7 PRODUCTION DAY OVERSIGHT → 8 COMPLIANCE & CLOSEOUT

★ *The City's priority is public safety, protecting communities, supporting local businesses, and enabling a world-class film industry.*

FILM UNIT REVIEW MAY INCLUDE:

Traffic • Pedestrians • Parking • Closures • Hours • Special Effects • Weapons • Crowds • Emergency Access • Community Impact

MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES • MULTIPLE LOCATIONS • MULTIPLE CITY PARTNERS • ONE COORDINATED PROCESS

1 FILM UNIT BY THE NUMBERS 2025

7,841
FILM PERMITS

13,359
FILMING LOCATIONS

252+56
FILM UNIT WORK PERMIT APPROVALS / ADMIN

104
CALLS FOR SERVICE

699
FILM AUDITS / SPOT CHECKS

59
ACE CITATIONS

85
MEETINGS

180+
PATROL HOURS RETURNED TO AREA DIVISIONS

Instead of Area officers handling filming complaints, the Film Unit handled them.

EQUIVALENT TO:

15
PATROL SHIFTS

NEARLY **1 MONTH**
OF ONE OFFICER

TIME RETURNED TO PATROL FOR EMERGENCY CALLS

WHAT THE FILM UNIT DOES

CENTRALIZED PUBLIC-SAFETY OVERSIGHT FOR FILMING IN LOS ANGELES

PERMIT REVIEW

- Review proposed filming activities and locations
- Evaluate public-safety and community impacts
- Identify traffic, pedestrian and operational concerns

PERMIT DETERMINATIONS

- Establish appropriate conditions and requirements
- Request modifications when necessary
- Approve permits following LAPD review

OVERSIGHT & RESPONSE

- Conduct audits and spot checks
- Respond to complaints and filming-related incidents
- Address unpermitted or non-compliant activity

COORDINATION

- FilmLA and City departments
- Council offices and Geographic Areas
- Productions, communities and other stakeholders

ONE UNIT • CITYWIDE RESPONSIBILITY • ONE POINT OF CONTACT

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

TWO PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Traffic & pedestrian safety
- Emergency & public access
- Stunts, weapons & special effects
- Crowds & public activity
- Location-specific safety concerns

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Hours & noise
- Parking & access
- Frequency of filming
- Residential & business impacts
- Neighborhood disruption

NEUTRAL • CONSISTENT • ACTIVITY-BASED

The same standards apply whether the applicant is a student filmmaker or a major studio.

COMMERCIAL FILMING IS A CITYWIDE ECOSYSTEM

NO SINGLE AGENCY MAKES FILMING WORK



CLEAR ROLES • EARLY COORDINATION • OPEN COMMUNICATION

REQUIREMENTS FOLLOW THE ACTIVITY

WE REGULATE THE ACTIVITY — NOT THE SIZE OF THE PRODUCTION

TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SPACE

- Traffic & pedestrian control
- Lane & street closures
- Parking & posting
- Production vehicles & equipment
- Public & emergency access

SPECIAL ACTIVITY & SAFETY

- Stunts & special effects
- Simulated weapons
- Police uniforms & emergency vehicles
- Large crowds & public activity
- Location-specific safety concerns

EVERY REQUIREMENT SHOULD HAVE AN IDENTIFIABLE PURPOSE.

Requirements may be added, modified or removed as the activity, location and circumstances warrant.

THE PERMIT IS NOT STATIC

OUR RESPONSIBILITY CONTINUES AFTER APPROVAL



- Changing production activity
- Emerging public-safety concerns
- Community complaints
- Traffic or access conditions
- Major events or unexpected activity
- Permit riders and modifications

SOLVE THE PROBLEM. PRESERVE THE PRODUCTION WHENEVER IT CAN BE DONE SAFELY.

INCONVENIENCE PAYMENTS

VOLUNTARY • PRIVATE • NOT ENCOURAGED

PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT

- A resident may request payment
- A production may accept, decline or negotiate
- LAPD does not establish or negotiate payment amounts
- Payment does not purchase permit approval
- Payment does not create authority to veto permitted filming

THE ENFORCEMENT ISSUE IS THE CONDUCT — NOT THE REQUEST.

REQUEST / NEGOTIATION	Generally a private business arrangement
INTENTIONAL DISRUPTION	Potential LAMC §41.20 interference
THREATS, FORCE OR FEAR	Potential PC §518 Extortion

Focus on the conduct — not simply whether payment was requested or made.

4 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. STRONGER RESULTS.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL FILMING COMMUNITY.

KEY PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

FILMLA
Our primary permitting partner. Together we simplify the process and support the industry.

COMMUNITIES
Residents are at the center of our work. We listen, communicate, and address concerns proactively.

CITY DEPARTMENTS
DOT, LAFD, Parks, Rec & Forestry, City Attorney, Building & Safety, and more—we collaborate daily to coordinate safely and efficiently.

COUNCIL DISTRICTS & ELECTED OFFICIALS
We work closely with Council Offices, the Mayor's Office, and Board of Public Works to align priorities and support the economy.

LAPD UNITS
Traffic, Patrol, SLOs, Communications, and others—our partners in keeping the city safe while supporting filming.

PRODUCTIONS & INDUSTRY
We support a thriving production community by providing guidance, solutions, and a clear path to success.

WHAT WE DELIVER TOGETHER

- Open communication and trust with communities.
- Safe, efficient, and well-coordinated productions.
- Support for LA's economy, jobs, and global visibility.
- Solutions that reduce impacts and resolve issues early.
- Stronger relationships. Stronger outcomes. A better LA.

TOGETHER, WE:

- **PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY**
  Through coordination, planning, and enforcement.
- **RESPECT OUR COMMUNITIES**
  By listening, responding, and being good neighbors.
- **SUPPORT A THRIVING INDUSTRY**
  By providing clear guidance and efficient service.
- **DRIVE POSITIVE OUTCOMES**
  For the City, the community, and the industry.

**ONE TEAM.
ONE CITY.
ONE MISSION.**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR HELPING MAKE LOS ANGELES THE BEST PLACE TO MAKE MOVIES.

PARTNERSHIP IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS. TOGETHER, WE MAKE IT HAPPEN.

MAKING FILMING WORK BETTER

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING PUBLIC SAFETY

CLARITY

Clear requirements, expectations and agency responsibilities.

CONSISTENCY

Activity-based standards applied fairly and predictably.

COORDINATION

Earlier communication among productions, FilmLA, City departments and communities.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Identify unnecessary barriers and develop practical alternatives whenever possible.

THE BEST PERMIT ISSUE IS THE ONE WE IDENTIFY AND SOLVE BEFORE PRODUCTION DAY.

LISTEN • EVALUATE • COLLABORATE • IMPROVE

5 THE VALUE OF A SPECIALIZED FILM UNIT

SMALL TEAM. CITYWIDE IMPACT.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping Los Angeles safe while enabling responsible filming.

- Patrol remains available for emergencies
- Specialized film expertise
- Faster issue resolution
- Reduced operational risk
- Enforced compliance with City laws

COMMUNITY VALUE

Listening, responding, and protecting the communities we serve.

- One point of contact
- Faster complaint resolution
- Neighborhood protection
- Community engagement
- Builds trust and strong relationships

5 PERSONNEL

SERVING THE ENTIRE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CITY EFFICIENCY

- One centralized review process
- Eliminates duplicate work
- Reduces workload for Area Divisions
- Coordinates dozens of stakeholders
- Prevents multiple departments from solving the same problem independently
- Maximizes limited City resources

A small team does the work so others don't have to.

ECONOMIC VALUE

- Supports billions in filming activity
- Protects local jobs and businesses
- Keeps productions in Los Angeles
- Attracts future investment
- Balances commerce with quality of life

Strong production activity strengthens Los Angeles.

A SMALL TEAM HANDLING A MASSIVE WORKLOAD

7,800+ FILM PERMITS Reviewed & Issued in 2025

13,000+ LOCATIONS Managed & Monitored in 2025

252 WORK PERMITS Processed for Off-Duty Officers

699+ LOCATION AUDITS Ensuring Compliance & Safety in 2025

100+ CALLS FOR SERVICE Addressed & Resolved in 2025

*These numbers reflect the work of just **five** dedicated professionals.*

By centralizing film permitting expertise, the Film Unit prevents this workload from being distributed across Area Divisions and City departments—allowing patrol officers and other City resources to remain focused on their primary missions.

OFF-DUTY & RETIRED OFFICERS

FILM UNIT OVERSIGHT & RESPONSIBILITIES

STAFFING & PERMIT REVIEW

- Determine when officers are appropriate based on the permitted activity
- Evaluate traffic, pedestrian, crowd and public-safety needs
- Add, reduce or remove staffing when circumstances warrant

AUTHORIZATION

- Oversee Motion Picture Traffic/Foot Work Permits for retired officers
- Verify required authorization and qualifications
- Ensure assignments are tied to traffic control and safety

COMPLIANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Conduct field inspections and spot checks
- Address expired authorizations, complaints or improper conduct
- Ensure officers remain within the function identified on the permit

TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Authorized traffic and pedestrian control
- Support safe closures, access and filming operations
- Coordinate with FilmLA, productions and stakeholders

REQUIRE OFFICERS WHEN NEEDED FOR SAFETY AND MANUAL TRAFFIC CONTROL — NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE FILMING IS OCCURRING

OUR COMMITMENT TO LOS ANGELES

NEUTRAL

in who we serve.

CONSISTENT

in how we evaluate.

RESPONSIVE

when circumstances change.

SOLUTION-ORIENTED

when challenges arise.

SAFE COMMUNITIES.
SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTIONS.

COMMUNITIES RESPECTED • PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTED • PRODUCTIONS SUPPORTED